

# **Framing Questions**

## **Asking questions 1**

The basic rule for asking questions in English is straightforward: Invert the order of the subject and the first auxiliary verb.

- ☐ It is snowing. = Is it snowing?
- ☐ He can speak German. = Can he speak German?
- ☐ They have lived here a long time. = Have they lived here a long time?
- ☐ She will arrive at ten o'clock. = Will she arrive at ten o'clock?
- ☐ He was driving fast. = Was he driving fast?
- ☐ You have been smoking. = Have you been smoking?

If there is no auxiliary, use part of the verb 'to do'.

- ☐ You speak fluent French. = Do you speak fluent French?
- ☐ She lives in Brussels. = Does she live in Brussels?
- ☐ They lived in Manchester. = Did they live in Manchester?
- ☐ He had an accident. = Did he have an accident?

Most questions with question words are made in the same way:

- ☐ How often does she use it?
- ☐ Why don't you come?
- ☐ Where do you work?
- ☐ How many did you buy?
- ☐ What time did you go?
- ☐ Which one do you like?
- ☐ Whose car were you driving?

Note who and what can be the subject. Compare:

- ☐ Who is coming to lunch? (who is the subject of the verb)
- ☐ Who do you want to invite to lunch? (you is the subject of the verb)
- ☐ What happened? (what is the subject of the verb)
- ☐ What did you do? (you is the subject of the verb)

Note the position of the prepositions in these questions:

- ☐ Who did you speak to?
- ☐ What are you looking at?
- ☐ Where does he come from?

## **Yes/No questions**

Subject and verb change their position in statement and question.

statement You are from

Germany.

question Are you from

Germany?

We always use the short answer, not only "Yes" or "No". This sounds rude.

NOTE:

If the answer is "Yes", we always use the long form.

Example: Yes, I am.

If the answer is "No", we either use the long or the contracted form (short form).

Example: No, I am not - No, I'm not.

Are you from Germany?

Yes, I am.

No, I

am not.

'm not.

Is he your friend? Yes, he is.

Are Peter and John from England? Yes, they are.

## **Questions with question words(Wh questions )**

Question word Verb Rest Answer

Where are you from? I'm from Stuttgart.

What is your name? My name is Peter.

How are Pat and Sue? They're fine.

3) Yes/No Questions and short answers with the verb have

Auxiliary Subject Verb Rest Yes/No Subject Auxiliary

(+ n't)

Have you got a cat? Yes, I have.

Have you got a new car? No, we haven't.

Has your brother got a bike? Yes, he has.

4) Questions with question words and the verb have

Question word Auxiliary Subject Verb Rest Answer

Where have you got your ruler? I've got it in my pencil case.

Where do you have your ruler? I have it in my pencil case.

5) Questions without question words in the Simple Present

Auxiliary Subject Verb Rest Yes/No Subject Auxiliary (+ n't)

Do you read books?

Yes, I do.

No, I don't.

Does Peter play football? Yes, he does.

6) Questions with question words in the Simple Present

Question

word Auxiliary Subject Verb Rest Answer

What do you play on your

computer?

I play games on my

computer.

When does your

mother go to work? She goes to work at 6

o'clock.

Where do you meet your friends? I meet them at the bus

stop.

7) Questions without question words in the Simple Past

Auxiliary Subject Verb Rest Yes/No Subject Auxiliary (+ n't)

Did Max play football?

Yes, he did.

No, he didn't.

Did you watch the film yesterday?

Yes, I did.

No, I didn't.

BUT:

to be Subject xxx Rest Yes/No Subject Auxiliary (+ n't)

Were you in Leipzig last week?

Yes, I was.

No, I wasn't.

8) Questions with question words in the Simple Past

Question word Auxiliary Subject Verb Rest Answer

What did you do yesterday evening? I did my homework.

When did she meet her boyfriend? She met him yesterday.

Where did they go after the match? They went to a café.

BUT:

Question word to be Subject xxxxxx Rest Answer

Where were you yesterday? I was at the cinema.

9) Subject question

Question word Verb Rest Subject Verb Object - Place - Time

Who runs to the shop? Peter runs to the shop.

10) Object question

Question word Auxiliary Subject Verb Rest Answer

Who do you like? I like my mum.

Who did Mandy phone last Monday? Mandy phoned her uncle.

NOTE!

Subject question Object question

Who phoned John? Who did John phone?

## Exercise

Read the following sentences and frame appropriate questions.

1. Ravi will prepare the draft today itself.
2. The men pulled the animal out using ropes.

3. You will find the keys on the table.
4. The man at the gas station will help you.
5. They will close the shop at 9 pm.
6. We can rely on her promises.
7. I shall write to the manager.
8. You will be treated as a friend.
9. She will invite the CEO as the Chief Guest.
10. They will see the Niagara Falls during their trip to Canada.

**Answers**

1. When will Ravi prepare the draft? / Who will prepare the draft today itself?
2. What did the men pull out using ropes? / How did the men pull the animal out?
3. Where will you find the keys? / What will you find on the table?
4. Who will help you? / What will the man at the gas station do?
5. When will they close the shop?
6. Can we rely on her promises? / On whose promises can we rely?
7. Whom shall I write to?
8. How will you be treated?
9. Whom will she invite as the Chief Guest?
10. What will they see during their trip to Canada? / When will they see the Niagara Falls